

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

WELDON, David (Republican)
Representative, 15th District, Florida
Elected 1994 to the 104th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Amityville, New York - 31 August 1953

Home: Palm Bay, Florida

Marital status: Married (Nancy) - 1 child (adopted)

Religion: Zion Christian Church

Education: State Univ of NY (Stoney Brook), BS, 1978; State Univ of NY (Buffalo), MD, 1981

Military: US Army, Medical Corps, 1981-87, Major; Army Reserve, 1987-92

Profession: Physician

Political: No previous office. Won the 1994 election with 54% of the vote for the open seat of Rep Jim Bacchus (D) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 59% of the vote and in 2002 with 63%.

Rep Weldon, a fiscal and social conservative, is co-founder of the Space Coast Family Forum, a group promoting family-related issues. His district includes the Kennedy Space Center.

In the 106th Congress, a Florida Space Summit was held to outline problems and discuss potential solutions. Rep Weldon said the most important improvements will be the launch-range upgrades and that won't happen until the Air Force allocates the money. Was a key sponsor of national missile defense legislation. Made favorable remarks about the F-15 during the DoD Appns debate. Displeased that the conference report on the DoD Auth dropped his space launch amdt. Offered amdt pertaining to O&M of Air Force Space Launch Facilities, which he said addressed Cox Commission recommendation that expansion of domestic launch capacity is in the national security interests of the US. Stated that unlike many other military installations, Cape Canaveral Air Station and Vandenberg AFB provide vital, one-of-a-kind services to the US. Noting the decision to proceed with the construction of the Int'l Space Station; asserted that the US does not have the authority to discharge one particular partner from the international agreement. Drew attention to the successful launch from Spaceport Florida of an Athena rocket deploying the ROCSAT-1, the first satellite launched by the Taiwanese. Introduced H. Con. Res. 66, expressing a declaration of space leadership. Introduced, with Rep Capps, H.R. 1526, to promote international competitiveness of the US commercial space industry. Observed that the administration has placed the military budget and the needs of military personnel on the back burner while greatly increasing the number of overseas deployments. Supported a resolution calling for removal of US forces from the Yugoslavian theater.

In the 107th Congress, continued to stress the need for the Federal gov't to boost the aerospace industry. Named the chairman of the Civil Service Subcommittee. Urged reassessment of policy that shares technology information with China and Russia. Said China has engaged in war-game scenarios that involve the elimination of US space-based assets. Strongly supported expanded our national missile defense program.

In the 108th Congress, expressed concern that the space launch ranges are being neglected. Cautioned against having only one launch provider. Said both Boeing and Lockheed Martin need to continue as contractors for our launch program.

Additional: Avid jogger and guitar player. Volunteer doctor for the We Care program.

AF Bases: Patrick AFB; Cape Canaveral AFS

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS — subcs include: District of Columbia; Labor, Health & Human Services; VA, HUD & Independent Agencies